

CLAIMS

- 1 1. An apparatus comprising:
2 at least one processor;
3 a memory coupled to the at least one processor;
4 a plurality of resources coupled to the at least one processor that provides
5 temporary capacity on demand; and
6 a capacity manager residing in the memory and executed by the at least one
7 processor, the capacity manager managing access to the plurality of resources, the
8 capacity manager determining when a selected one of the plurality of resources is
9 required, and when the selected resource is required, the capacity manager determining
10 whether unused billed capacity for a similar resource is available, and if so, the capacity
11 manager assigning the unused billed capacity of the similar resource to the selected
12 resource.
- 1 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the capacity manager bills a predetermined
2 resource-time for the selected resource if no unused paid capacity for a similar resource is
3 available.
- 1 3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the capacity manager deducts the billed
2 predetermined resource-time from a prepaid amount.
- 1 4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the capacity manager further determines
2 whether the selected resource has already been billed.

- 1 5. An apparatus comprising:
2 at least one processor;
3 a memory coupled to the at least one processor;
4 a plurality of logical partitions defined on the apparatus;
5 at least one resource that provides temporary capacity on demand; and
6 a capacity manager residing in the memory and executed by the at least one
7 processor, the capacity manager managing access to a selected resource, the capacity
8 manager performing the steps of:
9 determining when the selected resource is required;
10 determining whether the selected resource has already been billed;
11 if the selected resource has not already been billed, determining whether
12 unused billed capacity for a similar resource is available;
13 if unused billed capacity for a similar resource is available, assigning the
14 unused billed capacity of the similar resource to the selected resource; and
15 if unused billed capacity for a similar resource is not available, billing a
16 predetermined resource-time for the selected resource.
- 1 6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the capacity manager deducts the billed
2 predetermined resource-time from a prepaid amount.

- 1 7. A computer-implemented method for providing metered capacity of at least one
2 resource on demand, the method comprising the steps of:
3 determining when a selected resource is required;
4 when the selected resource is required, determining whether unused billed
5 capacity for a similar resource is available; and
6 if unused billed capacity for a similar resource is available, assigning the unused
7 billed capacity of the similar resource to the selected resource.
- 1 8. The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of billing a predetermined
2 resource-time for the selected resource if no unused paid capacity for a similar resource is
3 available.
- 1 9. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of deducting the billed
2 predetermined resource-time from a prepaid amount.
- 1 10. The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of determining whether the
2 selected resource has already been billed.

- 1 11. A computer-implemented method for providing metered capacity of at least one
2 resource on demand, the method comprising the steps of:
3 determining when the selected resource is required;
4 determining whether the selected resource has already been billed;
5 if the selected resource has not already been billed, determining whether unused
6 billed capacity for a similar resource is available;
7 if unused billed capacity for a similar resource is available, assigning the unused
8 billed capacity of the similar resource to the selected resource; and
9 if unused billed capacity for a similar resource is not available, billing a
10 predetermined resource-time for the selected resource.
- 1 12. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of deducting the billed
2 predetermined resource-time from a prepaid amount.

- 1 13. A program product comprising:
2 a capacity manager that manages access to a plurality of computer system
3 resources, the capacity manager determining when a selected one of the plurality of
4 resources is required, and when the selected resource is required, the capacity manager
5 determining whether unused billed capacity for a similar resource is available, and if so,
6 the capacity manager assigning the unused billed capacity of the similar resource to the
7 selected resource; and
8 computer readable signal bearing media bearing the capacity manager.
- 1 14. The program product of claim 13 wherein the signal bearing media comprises
2 recordable media.
- 1 15. The program product of claim 13 wherein the signal bearing media comprises
2 transmission media.
- 1 16. The program product of claim 13 wherein the capacity manager bills a
2 predetermined resource-time for the selected resource if there is no unused paid capacity
3 for a similar resource available.
- 1 17. The program product of claim 16 wherein the capacity manager deducts the billed
2 predetermined resource-time from a prepaid amount.
- 1 18. The program product of claim 13 wherein the capacity manager further determines
2 whether the selected resource has already been billed.

- 1 19. A program product comprising:
2 (A) a capacity manager managing access to a selected computer system resource,
3 the capacity manager performing the steps of:
4 determining when the selected resource is required;
5 determining whether the selected resource has already been billed;
6 if the selected resource has not already been billed, determining whether
7 unused billed capacity for a similar resource is available;
8 if unused billed capacity for a similar resource is available, assigning the
9 unused billed capacity of the similar resource to the selected resource; and
10 if unused billed capacity for a similar resource is not available, billing a
11 predetermined resource-time for the selected resource; and
12 (B) computer readable signal bearing media bearing the capacity manager.
- 1 20. The program product of claim 19 wherein the signal bearing media comprises
2 recordable media.
- 1 21. The program product of claim 19 wherein the signal bearing media comprises
2 transmission media.
- 1 22. The program product of claim 19 wherein the capacity manager deducts the billed
2 predetermined resource-time from a prepaid amount.

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